

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00226 041550Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-10 DHA-02

EB-07 COME-00 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 MC-02 IO-11 ORM-02 OC-05

CCO-00 AGR-10 ARA-10 SAJ-01 /128 W

----- 125097

O 041300Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4996

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, MZ, SF, PINS, PFOR

SUBJ: VORSTER STATEMENT ON MOZAMBIQUE-RHODESIA

BORDER CLOSING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER IN PARLIAMENT EARLY AFTERNOON MARCH 4 IN WHICH
HE COMMENTS, IN A PURPOSEFULLY NON-SUBSTANTIVE MANNER, ON
MOZAMBIQUE'S CLOSING OF ITS BORDER WITH RHODESIA.

"THE CLOSING OF THE BORDER AND THE STOPPING OF COMMERCIAL TRAF-

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00226 041550Z

FIC BETWEEN RHODESIA AND MOZAMBIQUE CAUSE CERTAIN IMMEDIATE

PROBLEMS FOR BOTH COUNTRIES AND WILL IN DUE COURSE LEAVE GAPS AND REQUIRE ADAPTATION NOT ONLY FOR THESE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO FOR QUITE A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN OUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA.

SOUTH AFRICA ADHERES TO ITS STANDPOINT THAT BOYCOTTS AND THE CLOSING OF BORDERS DO NOT PROVIDE ANY SOLUTION IN POLITICAL DISPUTES AND FAR FROM SOLVING PROBLEMS RATHER HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF ACCENTUATING POINTS OF DIFFERENCE, WITH THE ANGER OF CAUSING AN ESCALATION TO SOMETHING MUCH MORE SERIOUS AND OF BEING THE SPARK WHICH WILL CAUSE THE SMOULDERING FIRES OF FRICATION TO FLARE UP, TO THE DETRIMENT OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED OR NEARBY. IT IS EVEN MORE SO IN THE CASE OF COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ECONOMICALLY INTERDEPENDENT AND IN WHICH THE ECONOMY IS AT ONCE MUTUALLY AFFECTED AND HARMED. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IRRESPONSIBLE FOR COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE FAR AWAY, TO STIR UP SUCH ACTION.

UNFORTUNATELY THESE CONDITIONS ARE AGGRAVETED BY SENSATIONAL REPORTING, SOMETIMES BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING, WHICH FOMENTS FURTHER DISCORD AND GIVES RISE TO PANIC.

THE GREATEST IMMEDIATE NEED OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTD IN RECENT TIMES BY WAR, VILENCE, ECONOMIC DEPRESSION AND DECLINING EXPORT PRICES, IN CONTRAST WITH RISING IMPORT PRICES, IS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT, TO OBTAIN AND PRODUCE FOOD AND TO COMBAT PROVERTY.

SO FAR SOUTH AFRICA HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE EVENTS, AND IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE PRECISE EFFECT OF THE ACTION TAKEN, BUT THE SITUATION IS AND REMAINS ONE WHICH CAN HAVE DISTRESSING CONSEQUENCES, AND EVERY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY EVALUATED AND EVERY STEP TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS POEPLS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN WITH CALM DELIBERATION.

APART FROM THE DANGER INHERENT IN THE SITUATION ITSELF,THE RUSSIAN AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN SOUTHER AFRICA IS AN AGGRAVATING FACTOR, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE RUSSIAN POLICY AND TACTICS TO EXPLOIT SUCH SITUATIONS TO THER OWN ADVANTAGE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00226 041550Z

AND TO ACHIEVE THEIR WELL-KNOWN AIM OF WORLD DOMINATION.

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSTANTLY GIVING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER, AND I SHALL KEEP THE HOUSE INFORMED AS OFTEN AS MAY BE NECESSARY."
EDMONDSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ECONOMIC WARFARE, BORDER CONTROLS, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAPET00226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-1253
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760396/aaaadgsr.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VORSTER STATEMENT ON MOZAMBIQUE-RHODESIA BORDER CLOSING
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RH, MZ, SF, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR J), (MACHEL SAMORA), (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006